

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0449

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: GOA RESPONDS TO CALLS FOR DIALOGUE AND ADJUSTMENTS

REF: BA 1931

1. LATE MARCH 20 THE JUSTICIALISTA PARTY ISSUED A LENGTHY DOCUMENT WHICH IN EFFECT REPLIED TO THE MID CRITICISM OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE RESPONSE WAS FAR MORE MODERATE THAN EXPECTED. PERONIST SOURCES SAY IT WAS PRINCIPALLY THE WORK OF RAUL LASTIRI AND INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA AND REPRESENTS SOMETHING OF A VICTORY FOR THE MODERATES OVER PERONIST HARDLINERS WHO WISHES TO BRING ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE EXPULSION OF THE MID FROM FREJULI.

2. THE PERONIST DOCUMENT CRITICIZED THE MID FOR NOT HAVING CONSULTED WITH ITS ALLIES BEFORE ISSUING ITS STATEMENT, AND SHARPLY POINTED OUT THAT THE MID COULD HARDLY CLAIM TO SPEAK FOR THE MASSES. IT ACCEPTED THE CRITICISM AS WELL INTENDED, HOWEVER, AND ADMITTED THAT MISTAKES HAD BEEN MADE IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE WHICH WERE STILL TO BE CORRECTED.

3. THE MID HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL NOT REPLY TO THE PERONIST DOCUMENT SINCE THE PURPOSE OF ITS ORIGINAL CRITICISM WAS TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR ADJUST-
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MENTS, NOT TO INITIATE A POLEMIC. THE MID HAS, HOWEVER,

ISSUED A FLAT DENIAL THAT IT WAS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN PLOTTING WITH EX PRESIDENT LANUSSE AND LORENZO MIGUEL (ONE OF THE RUMORS CIRCULATING IN THE WAKE OF THE MARCH 20 ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PLOT--SEE SEPTTEL).

4. IN WHAT IS SEEN AS ANOTHER VICTORY FOR THE MODERATES AND AS A RESPONSE TO UCR AND OTHER CALLS FOR A RESUMPTION OF CONSENSUS POLITICS, INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA ANNOUNCED THE EVENING OF MARCH 21 THAT MRS. PERON WILL RESUME A DIALOGUE WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES EARLY IN APRIL, PROBABLY BEGINNING WITH THE MINORITY PARTIES OF THE FREJULI. RATHER THAN THROUGH A LARGE MULTI PARTY MEETING, THE NEW DIALOGUE WILL BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH A SERIES OF MEETINGS BETWEEN MRS. PERON AND THE LEADERS OF EACH PARTY.

5. COMMENT: BOTH THE MEASURED PERONIST RESPONSE TO MID AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO DIALOGUE ARE ENCOURAGING INDICATIONS THAT MODERATE PERONISTS STILL HAVE INFLUENCE WITH MRS. PERON. IN THE FACE OF INCREASING CRITICISM AND CHARGES THAT THE GOA HAS ABANDONED CONSENSUS POLITICS, THEY SEEM TO HAVE CONVINCED HER THAT THE STEPS NOTED ABOVE WERE NECESSARY. UNLESS THESE TURN OUT TO BE MORE THAN TEMPORARY MEASURES OF A COSMETIC NATURE, HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT LONG SATISFY THE OTHER SECTORS.

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